



News Notes

Tax volunteers – The Hickam Tax Center, which opens Feb. 7, is looking for volunteers to help prepare federal and state tax returns for Team Hickam. Volunteers must be able to commit to a minimum of eight hours a week for the majority of the tax season, Feb. 7 to April 15. To volunteer, contact Capt. Amina Diehl at 449-1737, ext. 234 or Tech. Sgt. Imelda Charles at 449-1737, ext. 230.

Car wash – The Team Hickam Annual Awards Committee is having a car wash to raise funds for the 2004 Annual Awards Banquet. The car wash will take place Sunday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

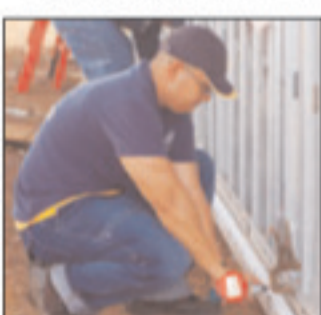
Red Cross classes – The Hickam Red Cross office has scheduled CPR/First Aid training for Jan. 22 and 29 at the Pearl Harbor ARC office. The fees are CPR/FA - \$39; A/L/C CPR - \$36; First Aid only - \$20. They also offer a babysitting certification class Jan. 15 that is \$35 (includes babysitting manual). All classes require pre-registration and payment at time of registration. Stop by their office at 655 Vickers Ave. Bldg. 1105 Hickam AFB or call 449-0166.

Housing Christmas tree disposal days – Tree pick up is set for Wednesday. Residents are asked to remove all tinsel, decorations, ornaments, etc. from the trees and place curbside no earlier than 8 p.m. on the evenings prior. People who miss these pick up days should place their bare trees in the green waste recycling dumpsters (also free of tinsel and decorations). Trees cannot be thrown away in the regular trash due to the green waste ban at the landfills. For more information, contact Randy Wong at 449-6047.

GSA annual inventory closes store – The Hickam GSA Customer Supply Center is closed for inventory Jan. 31 through Feb. 4 and is set to reopen Feb. 7. The GSA store, located in Schofield Barracks, is open for supply needs during this time. For more information, contact Teresa DeMello at 448-8937.

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Housing privatization set to begin Feb. 1

By Hickam Community Housing

Hickam's housing privatization project is back on track and projected to begin Feb. 1. Hickam and Actus Lend Lease representatives will update families at town hall meetings set for 3 and 7 p.m. Jan. 10 in the Memorial Theater. The meetings are intended for all affected residents and anyone wanting to learn more about privatization.

"Many residents may be new to our community or have not yet been introduced to the family housing services and plans for new homes offered by Hickam Community Housing," said David Falls, vice president and asset manager of Hickam Community Housing, a project company of Actus Lend Lease. "There is so much good news to tell about what is in store for residents, such as very responsive maintenance, new home construction and renovation, yard maintenance, community-based management and much more."

"Our staff and residents have waited months for privatization to start and beginning Feb. 1, our communities will begin to see exactly what privatization means," said Falls. "Hickam Community Housing residents will soon be receiving updates



Illustration courtesy of Actus Lend Lease

This is an artist rendition of the upcoming development from Ohana Nui Circle. Privatization is set to begin Feb. 1

and information through monthly newsletters and community meetings meant to increase dialogue and update residents on our progress.

January's town hall meeting will especially benefit new arrivals who haven't attended previously held town hall meetings. It's also a good time for those who attended previous town hall meetings to ask those questions that might have come up in the interim. "We want to hear from our residents about any questions or issues that concern them," added Falls. "Our

housing operations and maintenance teams are intentionally located within our Hickam housing community to ensure faster service but just as importantly, to familiarize residents with the faces and names of the people working daily to better their housing experience."

Residents in the affected homes should have already received notices from base officials and Hickam Community Housing regarding the lease documents that need to be completed. There are approximately 314 affected residents who need

to sign lease documents before Jan. 24.

Residents can download and review a lease by visiting www.HickamCH.com or by calling the Hickam Housing Privatization office at 448-3965.

In October 2003, Actus Lend Lease was selected as the private developer who would assume ownership of half the base's military family housing units and make major improvements to most of them. However, a protest by an unsuccessful bidder occurred, and the project was stalled until all issues could be

addressed and resolved.

"Residents are encouraged to call us at 423-2300 for more information," said Falls. "We have much to tell and do not want any of our residents to be unaware of the good things coming their way under privatization."

Anyone wanting to learn more about Hickam's project can visit www2.hickam.af.mil and follow the housing links to "Housing Privatization" or visit www.HickamCH.com.

For more Housing Privatization information, see A3



Photo by Angela Elbern

Topsy Turtle

(Right) Richard Herren and Cody Hooven, Biological Research Technicians from the National Marine Fisheries Service, points out a few things to Hickam beach goers about the Green Sea Turtle that stranded itself Dec. 28. To find out what happened with the turtle see Page A5.

Air Force C-17, C-130 deliver humanitarian aid

By 1st Lt. Warren Comer
374th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan – A C-130 assigned to the 374th Airlift Wing and a C-17 aircraft from McChord Air Force Base, Washington, departed Dec. 31 carrying more equipment and humanitarian aid to support disaster relief efforts in Utao, Thailand.

Approximately 50 Airmen deployed to Thailand to become part of the forward operating base where supplies and aid will be distributed.

"Our Airmen are truly remarkable. Their selfless desire to provide support when the world needs it shows how dedicated they are to the Air Force mission," said Col. Doug Kreulen, 374th Airlift Wing vice commander. "The amount of devastation is like none anyone has ever seen. Our unique talents and training make our Airmen properly suited to providing support to those who need it."

A total of seven C-130 Hercules cargo aircraft deployed to Thailand to support a regional airlift hub by transporting personnel, equipment and humanitarian supplies. The aircraft will remain in Utao, to continue delivering supplies to more austere locations. (Courtesy Pacific Air Forces Public Affairs)

Pay raise

Hickam basic allowance for housing goes up

By 1st Lt. John McClelland
15th Comptroller Squadron

Basic Allowance for Housing rates for 2005 are in and it's good news for service members and their families.

Continuing a recent trend in BAH improvements, members will see a significant increase in 2005. Although varying by grade, service members stationed on Oahu should see an increase in BAH averaging 22 percent. Those who will see the biggest increase are lieutenants and enlisted members in the rank of staff sergeant and below.

"The windfall is the result of congressional aims to reduce out-of-pocket off-base living expenses for military members," said Tech. Sgt. Carl Greene, 15th Comptroller Squadron. "The new rates take effect on the first day of the new calendar year. Members should look

for the increased rate to be reflected in January's mid-month pay."

BAH is a tax free entitlement paid to the member of the armed forces who reside in commercial housing. BAH depends upon the location, pay grade and whether members have dependents. The rates are set by surveying the cost of rental properties in each geographic location. The rates are established such that members in each pay grade, independent of location, pay approximately the same out-of-pocket costs. Rates are adjusted on an annual basis.

Servicemembers can check their LES online at <http://www.dfas.mil/mypay/>. Official rates are available at <https://secureapp2.hqda.pentagon.mil/perdiem/bah.html>. Contact the 15th Comptroller Squadron, Customer Service Section at 449-0330 for more information. For the 2005 pay chart, see A4.

BAH Rates on Oahu

| | 2004 | | 2005 | | BAH Increase | |
|-------|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| | W/O dependent | With dependent | W/O dependent | With dependent | W/O dependent | With dependent |
| E1-E4 | 917 | 1315 | 1161 | 1698 | 214 | 383 |
| E5 | 1112 | 1413 | 1472 | 1773 | 360 | 360 |
| E6 | 1230 | 1647 | 1633 | 1922 | 403 | 275 |
| E7 | 1322 | 1809 | 1703 | 2089 | 381 | 280 |
| E8 | 1459 | 1987 | 1802 | 2274 | 343 | 287 |
| E9 | 1532 | 2139 | 1849 | 2496 | 317 | 357 |
| O1E | 1413 | 1844 | 1773 | 2126 | 360 | 282 |
| O2E | 1515 | 2065 | 1838 | 2355 | 323 | 290 |
| O3E | 1647 | 2166 | 1922 | 2565 | 275 | 399 |
| O1 | 1217 | 1439 | 1623 | 1790 | 406 | 351 |
| O2 | 1379 | 1642 | 1747 | 1919 | 368 | 297 |
| O3 | 1563 | 2089 | 1868 | 2380 | 305 | 291 |
| O4 | 1825 | 2252 | 2107 | 2784 | 282 | 532 |
| O5 | 1933 | 2361 | 2218 | 3066 | 285 | 705 |
| O6 | 2097 | 2381 | 2388 | 3091 | 291 | 710 |
| O7+ | 2139 | 2408 | 2436 | 3127 | 297 | 719 |